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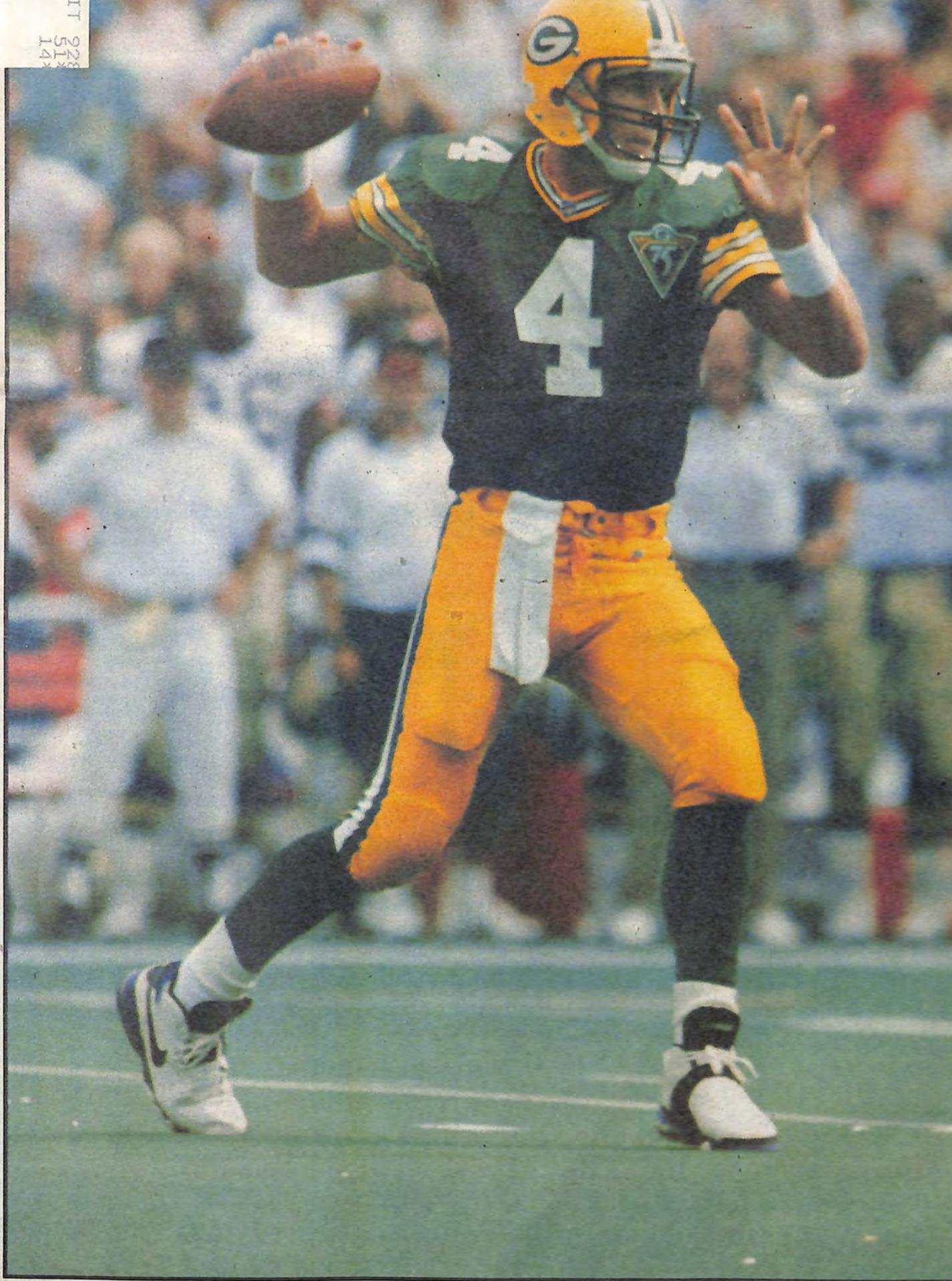
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Ray Utchke's

PACKER REPORT



A NEWSPAPER DEVOTED
EXCLUSIVELY TO THE
GREEN BAY PACKERS AND THE NFL.

Vol. 21 No. 7 September 11, 1993

Packers 36
Rams 6

Roster
set

Favre
&
family

Color
scare



Commentary

There's a lot to build upon in this opening-day victory

For an opening game, you couldn't have asked for a better-played game by the Packers.

It's very important for the Packer team to get off in the right direction. This game is really going to help their confidence and help them down the road. It's a game the Packers were favored to win and they played like they deserved that nod.

They played very emotionally. They were alert as a team. This was just an outstanding game — which indicates you have to play all facets of the game. The

RAY NITSCHKE

Packers did what you have to do in every part of the game. You have to be able to run, throw and come up with big plays on both offense and defense and on special teams, too. You have to out-hustle and out-tackle opponents. You must play good team defense, play the ball when it is in the air and nail 'em when it comes down.

Everything you need to do in a game, the Packers did in this game.

Plus, with everybody having high expectations for the team, the Packers needed to show they are for real, as opposed to hype. I still believe they have

Division champs usually win openers

Over the past five NFL seasons, 27 of the 29 eventual division champions won on opening day.

In 1992, four division winners — Pittsburgh, Dallas, Miami, Minnesota and San Francisco — were victorious on opening day.

Winners on opening day are also more than twice as likely to make the playoffs than opening-day losers. Since 1978 — with the exception of the strike-shortened 1982 season — of the 195 teams which have won on opening day, 102 (52 percent) went to the playoffs. Of the 195 losing teams on opening day, only 43 (22 percent) made the playoffs.

Packer fans will recall that opening-day 1992 Vikings' victory was a 23-20 overtime decision at Green Bay. Had the Packers won, they would have made the playoffs.

to come together more, but they looked like a football team. That's a big change from two, three or four weeks ago.

The Packers are playing together. Everybody seems to be helping everybody else out. They are hitting people. They are doing the things you need to on special teams — with the notable, but inconsequential, exception of the free kick.

They seem to all be playing smart and playing hard. For one day, at least. What a great start for what should be a great season.

This is what they have to do every game if they want to win the Central Division and go beyond. They must be intense, alert, emotional. They have to play as units; three units working together for one common goal.

You've got to come up with big plays. Sterling Sharpe's outstanding touchdown catch was the most eye-catching play of the day but remember, also, plays like the

safety. And for that play, look at special teams — Tim Hauck hustling down to down a punt at the Ram one yardline. Later in the game, Hauck had one assisted tackle. Those were the only two times all day the public-address announcer mentioned his name. But that punt play he made was a big play — and it goes to show you that you never know when the big plays are coming. In the next 15 games, the Packers need similar efforts from not only the Reggie Whites and Brett Favres of the world, but also guys like Hauck, Marcus Wilson and Doug Evans. In every game you must have players come up with big plays. Sunday the Packers did that; they got contributions from almost everybody they had in uniform.

Hey, that is what you have to do every week — you have to take it to the opponent. You can't sit back and let the other team take control. You have to control the tempo and make things happen. That's what led to the lopsided score.

The Packers came to play. They came to win. They expected to win. They had the confidence and played an outstanding first game.

A bonus is that nobody got hurt.

This team is getting confidence. I hope that mushrooms and gets more momentum. I expect the Packers will build on the good things that happened in this game.

They need guys to play hard every down and that's what I generally saw Sunday. The Packers were not going to be denied Sunday and that's exactly the attitude they need to carry forward for the rest of the season. I want to see that confident attitude come out and take it to the Eagles.

I see a lot of good coming from this.

The biggest thing the players must now realize is there are 15 more games. This is just the beginning. They must maintain this intensity level.

They can make the season whatever they want to. We saw them move the ball, play good defense and play good special teams.

Now we have to see that every week.

Ray Nitschke **PACKER REPORT**

A Royle Publication devoted exclusively to the Green Bay Packers and the NFL.

Vol. 21 No. 7 Sept. 11, 1993

On the cover...

Quarterback Brett Favre.
— David J. Garot photo

In the middle ...

Linebacker Johnny Holland.
— Steve Wolmann photo

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NFL standings

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

	Central	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
Detroit.....	1	0	0	1.000	30	13	
Green Bay.....	1	0	0	1.000	36	6	
Chicago.....	0	1	0	.000	20	26	
Minnesota.....	0	1	0	.000	7	24	
Tampa Bay.....	0	1	0	.000	3	27	

Eastern

	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
N.Y. Giants.....	1	0	0	1.000	26	20
Philadelphia.....	1	0	0	1.000	23	17
Washington.....	1	0	0	1.000	35	16
Dallas.....	0	1	0	.000	16	35
Phoenix.....	0	1	0	.000	17	23

Western

	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
New Orleans.....	1	0	0	1.000	33	21
San Francisco.....	1	0	0	1.000	24	13
Atlanta.....	0	1	0	.000	13	30
L.A. Rams.....	0	1	0	.000	6	36

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

	Eastern	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
Buffalo.....	1	0	0	1.000	38	14	
Miami.....	1	0	0	1.000	24	20	
Indianapolis.....	0	1	0	.000	20	24	
New England.....	0	1	0	.000	14	38	
N.Y. Jets.....	0	1	0	.000	20	26	

Central

	Central	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
Cleveland.....	1	0	0	1.000	27	14	
Cincinnati.....	0	1	0	.000	14	27	
Houston.....	0	1	0	.000	21	33	
Pittsburgh.....	0	1	0	.000	13	24	

Western

	Western	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
Denver.....	1	0	0	1.000	26	20	
Kansas City.....	1	0	0	1.000	27	3	
L.A. Raiders.....	1	0	0	1.000	24	7	
San Diego.....	1	0	0	1.000	18	12	
Seattle.....	0	1	0	.000	12	18	

Dominating debut

Pack finishes off Rams with 24 unanswered points

by Joe DiGiovanni

MILWAUKEE — The Packers lived up to the hype heaped on them most of 1993 by dominating all aspects of their season-opener here Sunday, posting an easy 36-6 victory over the Rams.

Edgar Bennett scored two touchdowns and Brett Favre threw for two others before 54,648 people at County Stadium. In total, Sterling Sharpe caught seven passes for 120 yards and one touchdown, while halfback John Stephens gained 75 yards on 17 carries.

Green Bay took control with a touchdown at the end of the first half and another to start the third quarter.

"A lot of times last year we would get ahead and come out and sit on it and let teams back in it," said Favre, who completed 19-of-29 for 264 yards and one interception. "This year, hopefully, today's an indication of where we're going in that situation."

With the Packers leading, 12-6, Stephens went left for 15 yards on two plays to the Green Bay 39. Jackie Harris, who finished with five receptions for 92 yards, then made a diving catch at the Rams' 35 for a 26-yard gain at the two-minute warning.

'Two receivers open every time'

After an incompletion, Harris got in the seam of zone coverage and caught a pass for a 21-yard gain to the 14 with 1:18 to go. Bennett, who finished with 41 yards on 11 carries, gained 10 yards on two attempts to the 4.

Favre threw two incompletions before hitting Mark Clayton at the 2. The former Dolphin receiver busted past cornerback Darryl Henley and dove into the end zone, giving the Packers a 19-6 lead at halftime.

"This is a great offensive philosophy and scheme," said Clayton, who finished with four receptions for 40 yards. "You're going to have two guys open every time. You saw that out there today."

Green Bay took possession to open the second half. Sharpe got open across the middle and Favre connected with the Pro Bowl receiver for a 26-yard gain to the Rams' 33.

Four rushing plays netted 11 yards to the 22 before Favre hit Bennett for an 8-yard reception to the 14. Bennett gained 3 yards up the middle, then broke three tackles for an 11-yard gain and his first National Football League touchdown.

Campen throws key block on TD

The play was keyed by center James Campen's block on linebacker Shane Conlan, and gave Green Bay a hefty 26-6 lead with 8:28 left in the quarter.

"Those guys did a great job today considering they haven't played together very much," Coach Mike Holmgren said of his injury-plagued line. "That group needs to play together more, but the first effort was good."

"This was a good game because we won, but still made enough mistakes that I can hammer on them just a little bit this

week," Holmgren also said.

The game was put out of reach on the Packers' next drive. It started when Favre and Sharpe connected for a 14-yard gain to the Los Angeles' 45. Harris then hauled in receptions of 16 and 14 yards to the 14.

le Ken Ruettgers (who'd been at practice less than a week) on the next play for a 1-yard touchdown, giving the Packers a 33-6 lead with 3:30 to go in the quarter.

"Those guys are some good, hard runners and hitters," Ruettgers said of the running corps. "We'll continue to do a

Last year the Packers were one of the worst teams defending against the rush, giving up 4.5 yards per carry. Sunday Los Angeles gained only 12 rushing yards on 12 carries in the first half and finished with 53 yards on 19 carries, a 2.8-yard rushing average.

White: We must stop run to get sacks

"You can't be an effective pass rusher without playing the run," said Reggie White, who had a tackle, an assist and

"This was a good game because we won, but still made enough mistakes that I can hammer on them just a little bit this week."

-- Coach Mike Holmgren

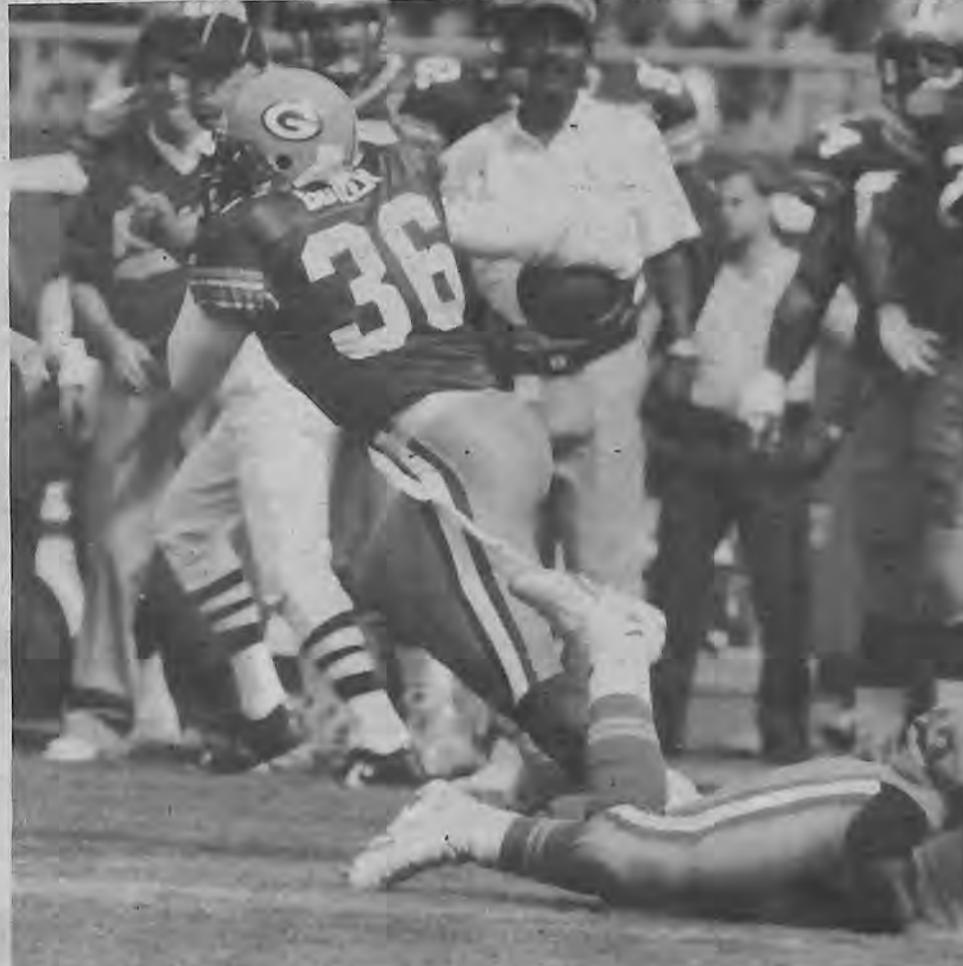
numerous hurries (see page 5) in his Packer debut. "I believe in being all-around.

"That's something we've been talking about here — taking pride against the run and shutting the run down," he said. "If you want to get sacks, you have to shut the run down. Once you shut the run down, then it messes up the whole process of an offense."

The Packer defense kept the Rams out of the end zone Sunday — Tony Zendejas made two field goals for their only points. One came after Dexter McNabb failed to field a free kick that was recovered by the Rams' Steve Israel on the Packers' 40, and the other came after a Favre pass was intercepted by cornerback Robert Bailey at the Green Bay 38.

Bryce Paup knocked an Everett pass away from tight end Travis McNeal near the goal line on fourth down from the 10 (see page 5). On Los Angeles' first drive in the fourth quarter, Johnny Holland hit McNeal as the tight end bobbled the ball

Continued on page 21



This was pretty much the angle Ram defenders had on this play -- Packer safety LeRoy Butler streaking away from them with Green Bay's first interception of the season, leaving Los Angeles players down and out in his wake.

-- David J. Garot photo

Sharpe got a step on cornerback Todd Lyght, who was beaten all afternoon, in the end zone on the next play. Lyght pulled Sharpe away from the ball, basically tackling him for a blatant pass-interference penalty to give Green Bay a first down at the 1.

Bennett went behind starting left tack-

better job for those guys, give those guys more ability to do the things that their talent allows them to do."

Besides the offensive firepower (381 total yards), the Green Bay defense smothered Jim Everett and the Rams (228 total yards).

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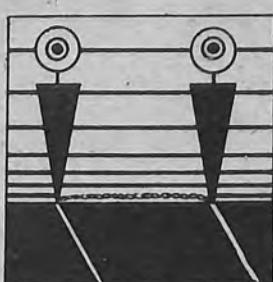
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GAME STATISTICS

SCORING SUMMARY

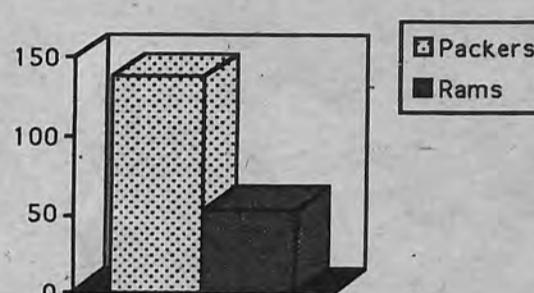
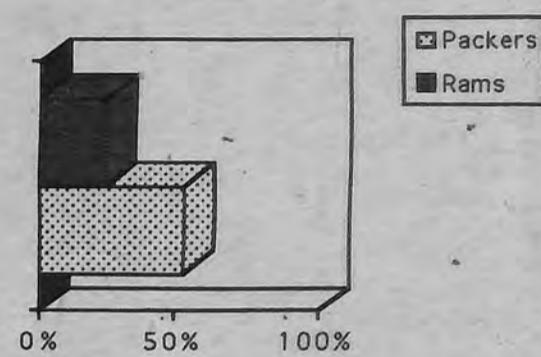
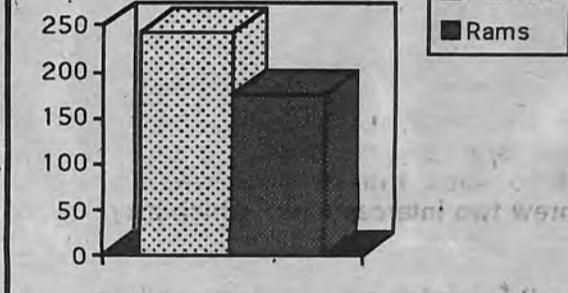
Los Angeles Rams.....	3	3	0	0	0	6
Green Bay Packers.....	9	10	14	3	36	

Packers, 1, 10:48, Gary tackled by Paup & Koonce for a safety, 0-2
 Rams, 1, 8:29, Zendejas, 31 yd. field goal (5-27, 2:19), 3-2
 Packers, 1, 6:10, Sharpe, 50 yd. pass from B. Favre (Jacke, kick) (6-67, 2:19), 3-9
 Packers, 2, 12:17, Jacke, 51 yd. field goal (11-54, 6:33), 3-12
 Rams, 2, 3:47, Zendejas, 32 yd. field goal (6-24, 1:34), 6-12
 Packers, 2, 0:40, Clayton, 4 yd. pass from Favre (Jacke, kick) (10-76, 3:07), 6-19
 Packers, 3, 8:28, Bennett, 11 yd. run (Jacke, kick) (10-64, 6:32), 6-26
 Packers, 3, 3:30, Bennett, 1 yd. run (Jacke, kick) (7-59, 3:47), 6-33
 Packers, 4, 1:57, Jacke, 33-yd. field goal (4-6, 1:53), 6-36
 Weather: Cloudy. Temp.: 68, Humidity: 63, Wind: NE 12 mph
 Attendance: 54,648; Unused: 1,403; Time: 2:53.

	Packers	Rams
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	22	14
By Rushing	9	3
By Passing	12	9
By Penalty	1	2
3RD DOWN EFFICIENCY		
Made	8	3
Attempted	15	12
Percent Made	53%	25%
4TH DOWN EFFICIENCY		
Made	1	0
Attempted	1	2
Percent Made	100	0
TOTAL NET YARDS	381	228
Total Off. Plays	68	60
Av. Gain Per Play	5.6	3.8
NET YARDS RUSHING	138	53
Total Rushing Plays	36	19
Av. Gain Per Rush	3.8	2.8
NET YARDS PASSING	243	175
Yards Lost	21	0
Gross Yds. Passing	264	175
Attempts	29	41
Completions	19	17
Interceptions	1	2
Av. Gain Per Pass Pl.	7.6	4.3
PUNTS	3	5
Yards	102	197
Average	34	39.4
Had Blocked	0	0
PENALTIES	6	1
Yards	71	13
FUMBLES	1	0
Lost	0	0
TOUCHDOWNS	4	0
Rushing	2	0
Passing	2	0
Returns	0	0
FIELD GOALS MADE	2	2
Attempted	2	2
TIME OF POSSESSION	36:09	23:51*

GREEN BAY PACKERS

	Att.	Net Yds.	Long Gain	TD	Had	
RUSHING	17	75	4.4	11	0	
Stephens	11	41	3.7	11	2	
Bennett	2	8	4.0	5	0	
Favre	1	7	7.0	7	0	
Thompson	3	6	2.0	4	0	
Sharpe	1	3	3.0	3	0	
Detmer	1	-2	-2.0	-2	0	
PASS RECEIVING	29	19	264	3	21	
Favre	No.	Yds.	LG	TD	TD	
Sharpe	7	120	50	1		
Harris	5	92	26	0		
Clayton	4	40	19	1		
Stephens	2	4	2	0		
Bennett	1	8	8	0		
INTERCEPTIONS						
Butler		1	31	31	0	
Mitchell		1	0	0	0	
PUNTING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	LG
Wagner	3	102	34.0	0	2	40
PUNT RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	LG	TD	
Buckley	3	1	42	39	0	
KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	LG	TD	
Harris	2	0	48	29	0	
Thompson	1	0	22	22	0	

Rushing Yards

3rd-Down Conversions

Passing Yards

Time of Possession

LOS ANGELES RAMS

	Att.	Net Yds.	Long Gain	TD	Had		
RUSHING	13	31	2.4	9	0		
Gary	5	24	4.8	7	0		
Bettis	1	-2	-2.0	-2	0		
PASSING	41	17	175	0	0		
Everett	Att. Com. Yds.	Sack	Yds.	TD	LG	Int.	
	41	17	175	0	0	25	2
PASS RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	LG	TD			
Gary	6	37	20	0			
Anderson	3	34	15	0			
Drayton	2	45	25	0			
Ellard	2	28	18	0			
Carter	2	17	13	0			
McNeal	1	8	8	0			
Bettis	1	6	6	0			

	T	A	SK	YL	INT.	PD	FR
GILBERT	3	12	0	0	0	0	0
PHIFER	4	8	0	0	0	1	0
HOMCO	4	5	0	0	0	0	0
LYGHT	5	3	0	0	0	0	0
CONLAN	3	4	0	0	0	0	0
NEWMAN	3	2	0	0	0	0	0
ROLLING	2	2	0	0	0	0	0
BAILEY	1	3	0	0	1	1	0
BOUTTE	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
STEWART	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
YOUNG	3	0	3	21	0	0	0
ROCKER	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
HENLEY	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
MARTIN	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
WOODS	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
BOYKIN	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
ISRAEL	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
STOKES	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
ANDERSON	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ELLARD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MCNEAL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

GREEN BAY PACKERS

	T	A	SK	YL	INT.	PD	FR
PRIOR	2	4	0	0	0	2	0
BLAHLER	3	2	0	0	1	4	0
KOONCE	3	2	0	0	0	0	0
MITCHELL	3	2	0	0	1	2	0
NOBLE	2	3	0	0	0	0	0

They had this in 'em the whole darn time?

MILWAUKEE — The Packers say they had this in 'em all the time.

Let's face it: 0-4 in the pre-season had a lot of Packer fans worried.

Then their favorites turned in a respectable showing in a 41-10 victory for their pre-season finale.

And now the Packers burst upon the regular-season scene with a resounding 36-6 victory over the Rams here Sunday. They dominated every worthwhile statistical category except sacks.

What gives?

"We told you guys all pre-season that it doesn't mean a thing," Brett Favre said. "We weren't trying to do half the things we really want to do in a regular-season game. But we came out today and executed like we wanted to. A couple of mistakes, but you look at that game, you saw a good team..."

Predictably, Coach Mike Holmgren was a bit more restrained: "I think we got off to a good start," he said. "I believe when we function on all cylinders we are capable of playing well."

They felt they had this in them the

AL PAHL



whole time.

"Yeah. Oh, yeah," LeRoy Butler said. "Just like I was saying when we were losing; we have the talent. We're going to win a lot of games still. We can't go out in the pre-season and play like we played today because it's different defensive calls. We are not going to run a lot of stuff. We ran a lot of aggressive stuff (today) that you are going to see the whole year."

"And that's no excuse. We should have still won the (pre-season) games."

White: Consistency key to success

Linebacker Johnny Holland said the high expectations are "part of pre-season. We understand what's going on; the coaches are evaluating players. You want to win, but fortunately, or unfortunately you want to evaluate players. But we knew we had a good team, and it showed in the last pre-season game when we played our starters just about the whole game. And this week it showed. We are excited about it. We have to keep getting better."

Sunday's game is pretty much what the Packers hoped for, the Minister of Defense revealed: "We talked about this



The Packers put decent pressure on Jim Everett all day Sunday, but the three-step drops he was taking made it difficult to sack him and he wasn't. Nonetheless, he threw two interceptions, which may

have been aided by the pass pressure -- an example of which Reggie White demonstrates in this photo.

— David J. Garot photo

before the game; we really wanted go out and score a lot of points and not allow them to score many," Reggie White said. "And that's what we did. That's confidence — but the thing now that we are going to have to gain is consistency.

"That's what put Dallas in the Super Bowl last year...they found ways to win. The team that's the most consistent is the team that's going to win the championship. So we are going to have to be consistent."

Most players also reported a predictable upturn in intensity now that they're playing for keeps.

"Yeah. Oh, yeah," Butler said. "Our quote, unquote, 'star' players stepped up today. They did what they had to do."

"When you have guys making plays, the young guys make plays, special teams make plays and the offense gets going, everything gets synchronized, we're hard to stop."

Greater intensity?

"Oh, yeah," Favre said. "Young guys don't really understand the difference between regular season and pre-season. This means something. Now, this is your job. In the pre-season some guys could care less. But today you turn it up a notch. It was totally different. The defense played their tail off. We just had to kick it up a notch for those guys and we did."

"But it was a totally different game today than it was last week and we played well last week."

What about the sacks?

But what about sacks? The Packers averaged 2.4 per game in the pre-season

and got zero Sunday.

"But a lot of hurries," Butler noted. "Reggie had a few (pressures). We'll get 'em (sacks) next week and we have 15 more games."

By the way, Butler hates being compared to Chuck Cecil. "I don't want to be compared to Chuck," he said. "I just want to be the person in the secondary that when they need a big play, they can come to me. I feel filling shoes like that (Cecil's), you have a lot of people looking at you. You've got to make a lot of big plays."

"I've always looked at myself as the player to make a big hit, come up with an interception or basically be the leader back there. But he played so well last year, it was kind of hard for me. He over-

shadowed me. It's my chance now."

And Butler would seem to be making the most of it — the fourth-year player opened the regular season with an interception, four passes defensed and five total tackles. Only Mike Prior had more tackles (six).

Although there were no sacks, "I thought we did (throw Jim Everett off rhythm)," White said. "We didn't get the sacks but I thought we got good enough."

Even without sacks, White makes his presence felt, Butler observed. "When he's on the field guys have to double-team him. Other guys are freed up. He

Continued on page 22

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Evans finds new team, spot, techniques

The football resume of Douglas Edwards Evans covers considerable territory, defensively speaking. For example, he played three different positions — linebacker, strong safety and rover back — over the four-year course of his collegiate career at Louisiana Tech, twice winning All-South Independent first-team honors.

One Doug missed, ironically, is cor-

happy in his new football "home."

"Cornerback suits me well," he said, adding, "Anywhere back there in the secondary, I believe, would suit me well."

"It's a big challenge — that's one thing I like about it. It's man against man, and whoever is the best man at that particular time — on that particular play — is going to win...The way we play it here, you're man-on-man a lot."

"Doug Evans doesn't say much — he just works. He listens, he studies it... We're real pleased with his progress... It's a real credit to him because he accepted a new position and worked at it."

— Dick Jauron

nerback — where he finds himself situated as a new member of the Packer secondary, after surviving six demanding weeks of training camp as a sixth-round draft choice — and the inevitable trauma of final cuts.

In the process, the sinewy Louisianian not only has been required to master a new position but to learn a new tactical approach as well — a substantial challenge.

"You play mostly man-to-man techniques here, so I had to learn how to play man-to-man," he explained while relaxing the day his berth on the regular-season roster was confirmed.

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"I had to learn to play better techniques than I did in college...I didn't get that much man-to-man technique there. It was mostly zone, and when I did play man-to-man, I covered the big guys, like the tight ends, instead of the receivers like here."

"And that," Doug acknowledged with a somewhat rueful smile, "is an adjustment, speed-wise."

'I can move without any problem'

But, Evans also admitted, there has been a saving grace for him in the transition process.

"Playing back there in the secondary, you do many of the same things (regardless of position)," he pointed out, "although there are differences."

Having the requisite physical skills also has helped.

"I feel I can move around without any problem," Doug observed. "It was an adjustment, but not one that I couldn't make...I found out I could do it — and I had no doubt I could. As soon as I got the basics down — I'd never played corner before — everything has come naturally."

Evans, noting with a chuckle, "There's no way I could play linebacker in the NFL (he's 6-1 and 188 pounds)," is

Jauron: 'He has great work habits'

"The coaches have been teaching techniques and I've been picking up every little small thing I can. You have to do every little thing you can to get the advantage over that guy you're facing."

Meanwhile, Dick Jauron, Evans' position coach, is patently pleased with the way Douglas has addressed the challenge and the learning process.

"He's doing real well," Jauron asserted. "He doesn't say much — he just works. He listens, he studies it...We're real pleased with his progress. It's a real credit to him because he accepted a new position and worked at it."

"He's done well every time he's had a chance to play on defense and he's done a good job on special teams...He's really earned a spot."

"Now he just has to keep pushing, keep working at it, keep improving at his position and keep doing the job on special teams."

"He's a good athlete and I think he's just going to get better because he has great work habits."

In addition to industry, Evans has another imposing asset — outstanding speed.

"For the Packer scouts (who worked him out prior to the draft), I ran a 4.35 '40,'" Doug confided. "The best time I was clocked at when I was working out for teams before the draft was 4.28. That was done when I was working out for Pittsburgh, Indianapolis and Kansas City."

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Rookie Doug Evans saw his first regular-season NFL action Sunday, getting in on both special teams and regular defensive plays. He finished the day with one tackle in each area.

— David J. Garot photo

"I was 4.4 going into the wind and 4.28 with the wind that day," he said.

Surprisingly enough, with this kind of swiftness, he was not known for his speed earlier.

"They didn't know about my speed in high school," Evans reported. "I was more of a quarter-miler then...I didn't realize I could run, either."

Exhibiting a somewhat sheepish smile, he appended, "The coach brought me out for the hurdles. I couldn't get over

them like he wanted me to so I said, 'Okay, coach, I'll hang it up.' But he said, 'Just run around the track.' And I ran with the quarter-milers and I ran a good time, so he kept me in that...I think my best time in the 440 was 48 seconds, and I set a district record in it at 49 seconds."

One thing that has aided Evans in his transition from linebacker/strong safety/rover back to cornerback is a simi-

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Final cuts

Youngsters stick at QB Veteran O'Brien released

When the smoke cleared from final cuts and associated roster moves last week, the Packers had:

- Gotten back Tuesday five of the players they released Monday;
- Entered the regular season with three quarterbacks boasting a *combined* experience total of 17 regular-season games after releasing Ken O'Brien;
- Claimed one waived Viking;
- Traded for a Falcon punter.

The actual moves appear in the chart on this page.

O'Brien was informed Sunday he had been released and would not be rehired. That left Green Bay with Brett Favre as starting quarterback, second-year Ty Detmer as No. 2 and rookie Mark Brunell as No. 3.

"I hadn't gotten any reps for a while, so I've been expecting it," O'Brien said. "When you're here, you want to be able to play and get the reps, and when you're not, it becomes frustrating. But like I said, that's why I had an inkling things were going toward this direction."

The Packers said they reached a knee-injury settlement with defensive lineman Alfred Oglesby who had been placed on waivers, knocking the roster down to 46.

The Packers acquired first-year punter Tim Kalal from the Falcons for an undisclosed conditional future draft choice.

Making matters more confusing Monday was the fact that Brady, Beauford and Coleman practiced with the team after it was announced they had been waived.

The three were on procedural waivers but still under contract, General Manager Wolf said, explaining why they could still practice. They could be claimed by any other team before Tuesday's 11 a.m.

deadline. Brady was — he went to the Rams.

The Packers announced Monday night that Ruettgers signed a contract and would join workouts Tuesday (see page 16).

Want young quarterbacks?

The Packers have them, especially after releasing the 32-year-old O'Brien.

Brett Favre, at age 23, is the veteran of the group with 13 NFL starts. Ty Detmer, 25, is the backup and has never played in a regular-season game. No. 3 is Mark Brunell, 22, a rookie.

Coach Mike Holmgren admitted Monday that having a group with so little experience is a little risky, especially if Favre should get injured.

"I wouldn't say I don't think about it. It is a concern. At that position, experience means a great deal," Holmgren said.

"You roll the dice on occasion in this business when you have talents like that."

Favre, entering his third NFL season, said: "I've got to lead us and I'm 23. It's kind of scary."

This is Detmer's second season. That is a main reason why he was chosen over Brunell as Favre's backup.

Holmgren was asked about making the decision for youth instead of O'Brien, who has 11 years of NFL experience and starred for the Jets.

"Detmer is a little older than a normal second-year player and mature beyond his years," Holmgren said. "Brunell shows that type of maturity. We would have not made it if we didn't think we could have made it."

"More than Ken O'Brien, it was the two young guys who got their chance to play and played well. When it came to weigh that thing, more than what Kenny did, it was the positive feeling we had about Ty and Mark."

In exhibition games, both moved the team better than O'Brien, whom the Packers had acquired in anticipation of his being Favre's backup.

Detmer: 'A lot of things changed'

"When you bring in a veteran like Ken O'Brien, you expect him to be the backup. That's pretty much what they said," said Detmer, a former Heisman

Roster moves	
Monday, Aug. 30	Tuesday, Aug. 31
Waived	Recalled or re-signed
QB Ken O'Brien	by Packers
WR Ron Lewis	by Packers
WR Shawn Collins	by Packers
OT Tootie Robbins	by Rams
TE Ed West	by Packers
LB Jeff Brady	by Packers
LB Brett Collins	by Packers
LB Terry Crews	by Packers
LB Keo Coleman	by Packers
G Terry Beauford	by Packers
RB Allen Pinkett	by Packers
DE Sebastian Barrie	by Packers
S Chris Crooms	by Packers
OT Paul Hutchins	by Packers
Claimed	
NT Gilbert Brown (from Vikings)	

Trophy winner at Brigham Young. "A lot of things changed during the course of camp and pre-season."

"We would have liked to have been able to keep all four. It was a great group of guys and we had a lot of fun. It's sad to see one of your buddies have to go, but then again I'm excited for the opportunity and I'll try to make the most of it."

"The coaches must have some confidence in us to do that," Brunell said. "I think I could do the job. I have confidence in my abilities. I also have a lot to learn about this offense. There are a lot of things I need to improve on."

There's also the consideration of the team's salary budget. O'Brien would have made \$1.8 million. Detmer will make \$145,000 this season and Brunell, a fifth-round draft choice, has a base salary of \$114,500.

Detmer worked his way from third string at BYU to a Heisman winner who set 59 NCAA records during his career.

He said a shortage of NFL experience

should not be that big of a deal.

"I don't think so. I'm sure the pre-season is a lot different than the regular season," he said.

Holmgren happy to be set

Detmer was 17 of 28 for 213 yards with a touchdown in the pre-season. Brunell hit 14 of 27 passes for 175 yards and two touchdowns.

Holmgren is glad the whole process is over so that the coaches and players can now concentrate on playing.

"It was new for us. We didn't know exactly how that was going to come down," he said. "But it was interesting. We got through it. We learned some things from it. It was the first time for everyone."

"It's always a good feeling for a coach, a comfortable feeling, when you have your 47 or your 53 and it's set and now you get them ready to go. I'm glad all that stuff's behind me right now."

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Favre and his Family

Brett having fun? 'Extremely' says his dad

Ol' down-home boy getting his kicks in the NFL

by Chris Arnold

At the door to the pool house I was met by Irvin Favre. The Coach is a stout man in his middle years with a tight crew cut which gives him the look of a Marine gunnery sergeant.

He shook my hand with a firm, confident grip. This was a man, who without saying a word, commanded respect. I knew I wasn't going to be calling him Irvin. This would be Coach Favre or Mr. Favre.

As he led me into the pool house, he introduced me to his wife, Bonita Favre. A lovely woman with an infectious smile, she greeted me warmly and offered coffee.

This was the beginning of what was supposed to be two hours with the Favre Family — which eventually extended to almost 13 hours. I found the Favres to be very honest and very open to all my questions. I was privileged to have access to whatever I desired and was free to roam the grounds. I met the entire clan and found them all, without exception, to be great company.

They are fun loving and for the most part, carefree. They work hard, play hard and love to, in their words, "hee haw" around. They take these things very seriously and what is most noticeable is how family life dominates everything.

The following interview was conducted on August, 7, 1993 for *Packer Report*:

PR: Is Brett Favre, good ol' boy, country boy for real?

Irvin Favre: Well, he has been that way all his life. He has gotten into almost every situation that a young boy could go through — from falling in the creek to overdosing on some pain killers he found after he got into his mother's purse at 10 months old. He was just a typical boy.

PR: Has this place turned out to be a good place to raise your kids?

Irvin Favre: We couldn't think of a better place to raise our kids. We have advantages which the city just doesn't offer. We've been fortunate to raise our kids here and they tended for awhile to want to stay home more than anything else.. No, we don't regret it, and I'm quite sure all of my kids have enjoyed living in this rural area right here and we wouldn't give it up for nothing.

PR: It seems like the small-town values have rubbed off on Brett; it's contract negotiation time and he's in camp working hard. Is he really more interested in winning and being successful in football then in the wallet?

Irvin Favre: I think you have to look



Brett Favre may be a rising star in the NFL but parents Bonita and Irvin Favre say they don't really have to remind their 23-year-old son from whence he came. The Mississippi couple is happy to have one son in the NFL but is no less proud of Brett's equally competitive siblings.

at it twofold: One, he is a player in a dangerous position and Brett's a competitor — that's the main thing, he wants to win. He would like the Packers to go to the top and he wants to lead them to the top, and I am quite sure of that cause I know him real well!

But it doesn't matter where, or who he plays for, he'll give you everything he's

got and he is going to fight for it.

Now, he also knows his career could end and it could be from a crippling injury where he might not be able to do a lot of things that other people could do. So, you know, he wants to be compensated for it.

PR: Where did his great ambition to

win come from? Was it just a natural thing?

Irvin Favre: I think a big portion of athletics is you have to be born with it; I think it has to be inherited. I think he inherited his toughness through his family and he is tough.

PR: When did Brett first express an interest in playing football?

Bonita Favre: He told his sixth-grade teacher he was going to play pro football!

Irvin Favre: Our kids, every one of them, has a burning desire to win, they really do, and I'm the same way.

I don't get enough money for coaching football, but I want to win, it's just pride on my part and I always wanted to be a coach just like Brett wanted to be a pro player.

Money was not a big thing for me because I knew I wasn't going to get rich being a teacher. I just like the competition and going up against somebody. If I lose, I just can't stand it. I've seen my kids cry like babies when they lose. It just kills them. They just want to win.

PR: How did all your sons end up playing quarterback?

Irvin Favre: I started off with Scott, then Brett and finally, Jeff. They all started in the pee wee league and just kind of stayed playing quarterback.

When I started to coach them I just said to myself, 'I just can't stand to go to football practice with a quarterback missing.'

I'd go to practice and other kids would come up sick or didn't have the interest. My kids were quarterbacks and I

Continued on next page

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"...Brett is dangerous, awful, awful dangerous. It doesn't surprise me to see him do things that sometimes would seem impossible."

— Irvin Favre, father of Brett

Continued from last page

knew where they were going to be — they were going to be with me or with their mother.

PR: Did Brett have fun playing football for you in high school?

Irvin Favre: Yeah, but I was tough on him. Bonita said I was too tough on him.

If I got on Brett too hard, he was the type that we call a Butthead. He is bull-headed. I'd call a play and he'd see something and he'd change the play. Even when the play was successful, I would still be mad cause he would change the play.

PR: Is Brett having fun in the NFL?

Irvin Favre: Is Brett having fun? Extremely. He loves it.

Brett is the type who becomes bored when you bore his mind. Here's what makes Brett a great quarterback: Sure, he's got the fantastic arm, but he also has a vast amount of knowledge and he likes to play games with you.

He's very imaginative, and I think a quarterback has to have that; he just can't be like a robot out there. He's also the type who can improvise.

Coach Holmgren made the statement that he would hate to see Brett if he ever got out of the pocket and started running. Sure he would because Brett is dangerous, awful, awful dangerous. It doesn't surprise me to see him do things that sometimes would seem impossible.

PR: Would you describe Brett as being a dangerous quarterback?

Irvin Favre: He's a lot of things. He's dangerous, he's interesting and, hard to figure out. He's so smart on the football field. I know when he was in college they were doing things with him that they couldn't do with the other quarterbacks.

PR: Such as?

Irvin Favre: In particular, reading defenses. He was at the point where the head coach of SMU (Southern Mississippi University) had to throw more stuff at him to keep him from getting bored.

PR: How hard does Brett work out for his position?

Bonita Favre: Some people said Brett didn't work as hard in college as he does now. He worked hard, but now he works out in the summer five to six hours every day.

Irvin Favre: Now look, that really amazed me. Brett has worked out, but it's just like Bonita said, in school we never saw Brett bring books home, he never studied, and all he got were A's and B's. His teachers said he listened and just retained.

We're amazed at the way he works out now. When he was coming up through, he would sleep late and when he got up he'd maybe throw the football or jog for an hour and he gained up to about 230. He just was not working hard enough and the college people said Brett had to get better work habits.

Now, when he got to the pros, he dropped his weight down to about 216, and when he's here, he works harder than I have ever seen him work. Now, he'll work out three to five hours. He'll

run these roads for hours, and he's real particular about what he eats.

PR: Do you remember the day when you scratched your head and said "man, this kid is really good?"

Irvin Favre: I really didn't. I considered him a good, average athlete with a very strong arm and a burning desire to win when he was coming up through school.

We're fanatics about watching and being with our kids, that's the way we've done it all our lives. Particularly Bonita, Brett's got the best mother he could ever have.

When he started college I told him, 'Brett, you're going to be way down on the depth chart, so bust your butt and see what you can do.' He wasn't even on the quarterback list — he was signed as a defensive back, but the quarterback coach saw him just playing around and decided to take a look at him. They thought he had quite an arm. After about a week there, he started playing quarterback.

I told Brett I thought he could get to No. 3 and the reason was, they would take three quarterbacks on the traveling squad. The next week a couple quarterbacks got hurt. Brett ran the scout team, playing against the first-team defense.

I watched him and when the practice was over I said, 'Brett, this is your dad talking to you. No one out here is better than you — don't shoot for No. 3, shoot for No. 1.'

During one scrimmage with the practice squad he threw two touchdowns against the first-team defense and that's when I started hearing people say, 'Man, that boy can play.'

And I said to myself, 'Damn right he can.'

PR: If Brett wasn't playing football what would he be doing?

Irvin Favre: Heck, (laughing) I don't think he can do anything else!

I don't know what he can do. The coach at Southern told Brett if nothing materialized for him he would like to have him on his staff, working quarterbacks.

Bonita Favre: He said he if ever coached he would coach high school and not college. He said he saw the college coaches' lives and he would rather do high school.

Irvin Favre: Brett saw that the college work and the pro coaching work was not really much different and I don't think he liked the idea of staying gone so much. You see, Brett's a homebody.

Bonita Favre: (laughing) He gets kidded all the time by his friends who say, '23-year-old pro player who still lives at home with his parents.'

PR: How has it been for you folks since Brett's success?

Irvin Favre: Some things have changed. We now get introduced as Brett Favre's Mom and Dad all the time! No matter where we go somehow, somehow Brett comes up.

But we are so thankful for everything the Lord has blessed him with. We do worry about how much people talk about Brett in comparison to the other kids. We are proud of all of them.

PR: You said some things have changed. What, exactly?

Irvin Favre: Well I don't mind telling you, some people are jealous. Some people don't like to see people succeed and that aggravates us cause he (Brett) has worked so hard for everything he has got.

Bonita Favre: We have people who ask us, 'Why are you working when your son's a millionaire?'

Irvin Favre: We tell people that's Brett's money. If Brett wants to give us something, that's his privilege, but we don't ask for nothing; we had this stuff here before he ever got here. People say Brett will build us a home. We don't want a home, we already have a home.

We've even had some folks ask us how much he makes. Jealousy is an easy thing to have.

PR: On the other hand, do you have friends who have stuck with you and share in Brett's success?

Irvin Favre: Sure we do, but nothing is better than family. If you have a close-knit family that's all that matters — we are very fortunate.

PR: Have you ever had to remind Brett of who he is or where he is from?

Irvin Favre: No, not really. I imagine we have said it two or three times. That old statement is true: 'Never forget where you came from.'

PR: How much influence do you have

over Brett? Are you still the coach?

Irvin Favre: Yep. He'll call after a game and I will tell him things like 'You threw off your back foot,' or 'You made a great read.' He doesn't always like what I tell him, but I think he listens.

PR: What kind of leader is Brett?

Irvin Favre: The biggest thing about Brett is what Brett does. He gets out there and he gives everything he's got; he's got his body out there and everything.

People think 'If he can do that, I can bust my butt and do my part too'. When he steps in that huddle, he commands.

That's what was impressive to me when he was 17 years old; he could step in the huddle and say, 'Give me time and I will show you what I can do.'

He leads by his actions. I think he's a tremendous leader!

PR: How good a quarterback is Brett?

Irvin Favre: Well, I think he's young. He still makes a lot of mistakes and I think he makes up for a lot of his mistakes by the way he handles himself on the field. He overcomes a lot.

He'll make a bad play, then he'll make a good play. He'll still throw into coverage, and at times he has bad mechanics, but he's smart and he'll get smarter.

He's a hell of a quarterback, I know he's my son and everything, but he's not bad!

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PACKER REPORT



WHATEVER HAPPENED TO:

Bill Forester

A man who's always had his priorities in order

by Jerry Poling

Bill Forester hasn't been back to Green Bay for many years, but he's been told by one of his sons that he's coming back next summer to visit Lambeau Field and the Packer Hall of Fame, where he is enshrined.

"That will be nice," Forester says.

It seems ironic family is the reason he will be returning to Green Bay. Family was one of the primary reasons he left in 1963 at the still-young age of 31.

After making All-Pro and the Pro Bowl for four consecutive seasons beginning in 1960, the speedy outside linebacker decided after the 1963 season it was time to return to Texas and concentrate on raising his family.

"My kids were getting to the age when they were switching in and out of schools, and it was getting difficult," he recalls. "I had played 11 years. I was still in one piece. You can't play forever."

So after 11 years with the Packers, after seeing Vince Lombardi put together the foundation of the Packer dynasty, Forester went home to the Dallas area to work in sporting goods, a field he has been in ever since.

Lombardi wanted to fly him back

But wait.

Lombardi didn't often take 'No' for an answer. With an inexperienced Lee Roy Caffey taking Forester's job, Lombardi wasn't so sure he wanted to lose Forester.

"Green Bay was playing an exhibition game in Dallas in 1964. There was a barbecue for all the players and coaches. Lombardi made up his mind he wanted to take me back on the plane (to Green Bay). I had a tough weekend. But I had made up my mind. Another year and I would have the same problem. I told him I wasn't going. Anyhow, I don't have any regrets."

Now 61, Forester works for the Jerry Lenz Co., of Victoria, Texas, selling athletic equipment to about 60 high schools in the Dallas metropolitan area.

When Forester thinks about his life, he remembers what Lombardi used to say about priorities. It was God first, family second and the Packers third, although he's not sure if Lombardi really put them in that order.

Forester did and still does. He is a regular churchgoer, and he and his wife give a lot of attention to their three children and seven grandchildren.

And, yes, even though Forester is from Texas and lives in the Dallas area, the Packers, not the Cowboys, still are third in his life. He follows them regularly.

He played in blue early, prefers green

To give you an example, he has heard

about the recent proposal to change the Packer colors to something other than Green 'n' Gold. Even though he remembers playing exhibition games in the early 1950s in some of the Packers' old navy-colored uniforms, he is highly opposed to reintroducing navy or any other color into the Packer uniforms.

"That's like changing the colors of the flag, isn't it?" he said.

Forester has sons ages 40 and 38 and a daughter age 33. The 38-year-old, Mike, is a minister in Alabama who recently has gone into football coaching. Forester says that Mike is a Packer fan two times through, and he is the one who has planned the 1994 trip to Green Bay.

Mike would have been eight years old when his dad gave up the Packer linebacker job, alongside Ray Nitschke, Dave Robinson, Dan Currie, Caffey and others.

"My kids were getting to the age when they were switching in and out of schools, and it was getting difficult... You can't play forever."

The Packers finished second in the Western Conference in 1963, despite an 11-2-1 record, their first year in four that they hadn't been in the finals.

They lost the 1960 title game to Philadelphia before beating the New York Giants for titles in 1961 and 1962. Forester was All-Pro and Pro Bowl all of those seasons.

Forester believes the Packers would have made the playoffs in 1959, Lombardi's first season, had not fullback Jim Taylor burnt his hand in a home cooking accident and missed the final few games.

Forester, drafted in the third round in 1953 out of Southern Methodist University, played for several coaches (all losing Packer teams) until Lombardi arrived. He noticed a difference immediately.

"The first speech he ever made to the team you could tell this guy was going to

be a winner. He was so inspirational. It was just a matter of time until we got there," Forester says.

And Lombardi won without making many roster changes. Many of the future stars of the Packers already were on the roster but simply hadn't stepped forward yet.

"It's a blocking and tackling game, and some of the people we had who were not very good at that got to be good at that."

"We got to the point where you wanted the guy next to you to get recognition rather than you. That's not natural. There was so much togetherness he instilled in us, and I don't know how he did it. He was a wonderful coach," Forester says.

There's more to life than football

The greatest memories for Forester

across and hit me and it was something else."

Forester likes to tell one other Nitschke story:

"He was a quarterback in high school. Sometimes he would play that position in practice. I remember seeing him throw the ball 100 yards in the air. That sounds like Texas bull, but it's not. The problem was he would throw the ball with the same velocity if it was a 10-yard hook, and nobody would want to catch it," Forester said.

Forester was inducted into the Packer Hall of Fame in 1974. In 1969, he was picked to the Packers' 50th anniversary all-time team, joining Nitschke and Robinson at linebacker on the honor squad.

Coaching lifestyle unappealing

While Forester's contacts with his ex-teammates have been few, Caffey did work for him for one year. Also, he keeps in touch regularly with Forrest Gregg, now the athletic director at SMU. Both players are former SMU stars, and Gregg worked in sales with Forester in 1972, the year Gregg played for the Cowboys when they won the Super Bowl.

Forester recalls making \$6,500 his first season as a Packer and \$19,500 in his final season. He called it "good money" for those years.

Unlike Gregg, who coached at SMU, Green Bay, Cincinnati and the CFL, Forester resisted the temptation to go into coaching. His father was a football coach.

Forester remembers that in 1961, Lombardi indicated that he would like Forester to become a coach someday. Forester immediately said no.

"The way they are compensated now, it probably would have been a good thing. If you're not successful, you do a lot of moving around. I didn't want to do that," Forester said, citing his family.

"There's no question I would have thoroughly enjoyed it."

But for Forester, it's always been family before football.



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The great color scare

No changes appear likely, but here's the history anyhow

The title of today's opus is "The Great Green Bay Packer Color Scare."

First a baseball story:

It was the World Series in Los Angeles a few years back — the Dodgers vs. the Athletics. Orel Hershiser, the skinny Dodger pitcher, was mowing down the Athletics throughout the Series.

After one of the games, Hershiser said: "For a while out there I thought I was pitching against the Green Bay Packers."

ART DALEY



Colors are pretty hard to notice on baseball uniforms but the Athletics feature Green and Gold on their ultra-modern duds.

That little item was presented merely to show the mind-mix on the colors of the teams in the NFL. Also, Hershiser could be a Packer fan. Somebody ask him.

Anyway, this color thing started a few months ago when the Packers announced that there would be some changes in the team uniform for 1994. Right away, this question came up: "Good gracious, are they going to change the colors?"

Wolf: 'No color change'

Football Chief Ron Wolf kiboshed that with the announcement in an Aug. 23 press release that the colors will not change and neither will the "G" logo on the helmets. There will be changes but they will not be major.

All this color business prompted me to dig into a few whys and whatnots on the Packers' colors. For instance, why did the Packers wear Blue and Gold from the start until 1950 when they switched to green? Why did founder Curly Lambeau lean to Blue and Gold?

Away back in 1949 Lambeau presented this writer and a Milwaukee scribe with gifts — copies of "College Football and All-America Review" by then-famous Christy Walsh. All of the major colleges are listed along with the lettermen from each year starting in the late 1880s. For instance, the Notre Dame section showed 13 lettermen for 1918, including "Lambeau, E." and "Gipp, G."

Blue must have come from Notre Dame

It never occurred to me until this "color scare" stuff came up to check if the school colors were listed. Sure enough, Notre Dame's colors were "Old Gold and Light Blue." That light blue didn't last long. It soon became Navy Blue and Gold, the colors now. Undoubtedly, Lambeau got his color idea from his one year at Notre Dame.

Why did the Pack change to Green? I remember it well: Young Gene Ronzani, the ex-Bear player and coaching assistant, had the tough job of replacing Lambeau.

The Packers were hurting financially at the time and Ronzani made a point of buying second-hand office furniture and the like. However, he got the Packer brass to buy new uniforms, a pretty good expense, but he thought there should be a noticeable change from the Lambeau Era.

Ronzani made a lot of sense

Gene was perfectly logical. Said he: "We're the GREEN Bay Packers, so why not have green uniforms." As I recall it was a rather ickey green — a cross between Kelly and some other green, if you get what I mean. Somebody called it a pea green, which includes yellow. Oh yes, that color included the pants.

A variety of dark green and gold crept into the uniform during Liz Blackbourn's reign and when Vince Lombardi took over in 1959 the colors were basically what they are now, although the NFL media guide included Navy Blue along with green and gold. That finally changed when somebody noticed the lack of blue.

The Packers actually were known as the Green Bay Blues for one season. Back in 1992, the NFL took the Packers' franchise away for a short spell because they were found guilty of using players who were in college — a rather common practice then throughout the league. The NFL decided to make an example of the Packers so Green Bay changed its name to the Blues and kept its franchise.

The name Blues caused quite an uproar and Green Bay management went back to using Packers, with no static from the League.

'Obsolete' or 'collectable'?

Team colors are very important in the world of NFL marketing. A change in major colors would, of course, make all old Packer Green and Gold items obsolete, although they would become collectors' items. I have never heard of a team changing its basic colors, although the shades may have changed.

By Art Daley

PACKER REPORT

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Lombardi is credited with putting the big "G" on the Packer helmets, a distinctive feature, similar to the University of Georgia. Coach Forrest Gregg put G's on the sleeves and added stripes to the jerseys and pants. Lindy Infante, uncomfortable with stripes, removed them.

Colors, of course, can be crazy what with all the shades. The Detroit Lions have been Honolulu Blue and Silver for 50 years. What's Honolulu got to do with it?

The Giants were Red, White and Blue from the word go until 1972. Then they became Blue, Red and White and still are. The New England Patriots should be "patriotic" like in the U.S. Flag but they list their colors as Blue, Red, Silver and White. They were R, W and B originally.

49ers roll their own

San Francisco creates its own colors. Originally, they were Forty-Niner Scarlet and Gold. Now they are Forty-Niner Gold and Scarlet. What's Forty-Niner Scarlet or Gold? Tampa Bay is dressed in Florida Orange, White and Red. What color does that make a California Orange?

The Raiders have grown famous for their Silver and Black. The 1963 American Football League book shows their colors as Black and Gold. Silver replaced Gold in the late 1960s.

The Washington Redskins, originally the Boston Redskins, never used the word "red" in their colors. They've been Burgundy and Gold for 50 years or more. Only three other teams use green — the Eagles, Seahawks and Jets.

Blue is the most popular color. Eleven of the 28 teams have some form of blue in their color schemes. They are Buffalo, Houston, Indianapolis, New England, San Diego, Seattle, Chicago, Dallas, Detroit, Los Angeles Rams and New York Giants.

The Bears have been Navy Blue, Orange and White seemingly forever. Wonder where George Halas ever came up with that Orange? Never thought of asking him, but since he was a noted Bohemian maybe he...Oh well.

Whatever became of good old black (as hell) and white (as the driven snow)? Perhaps that went out of existence with color TV.

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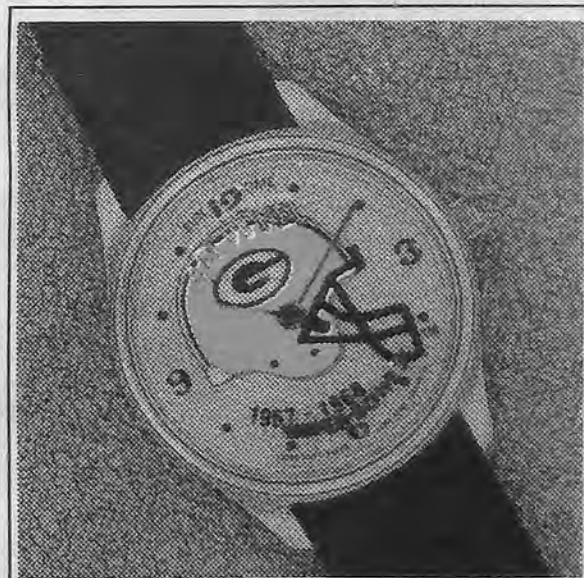
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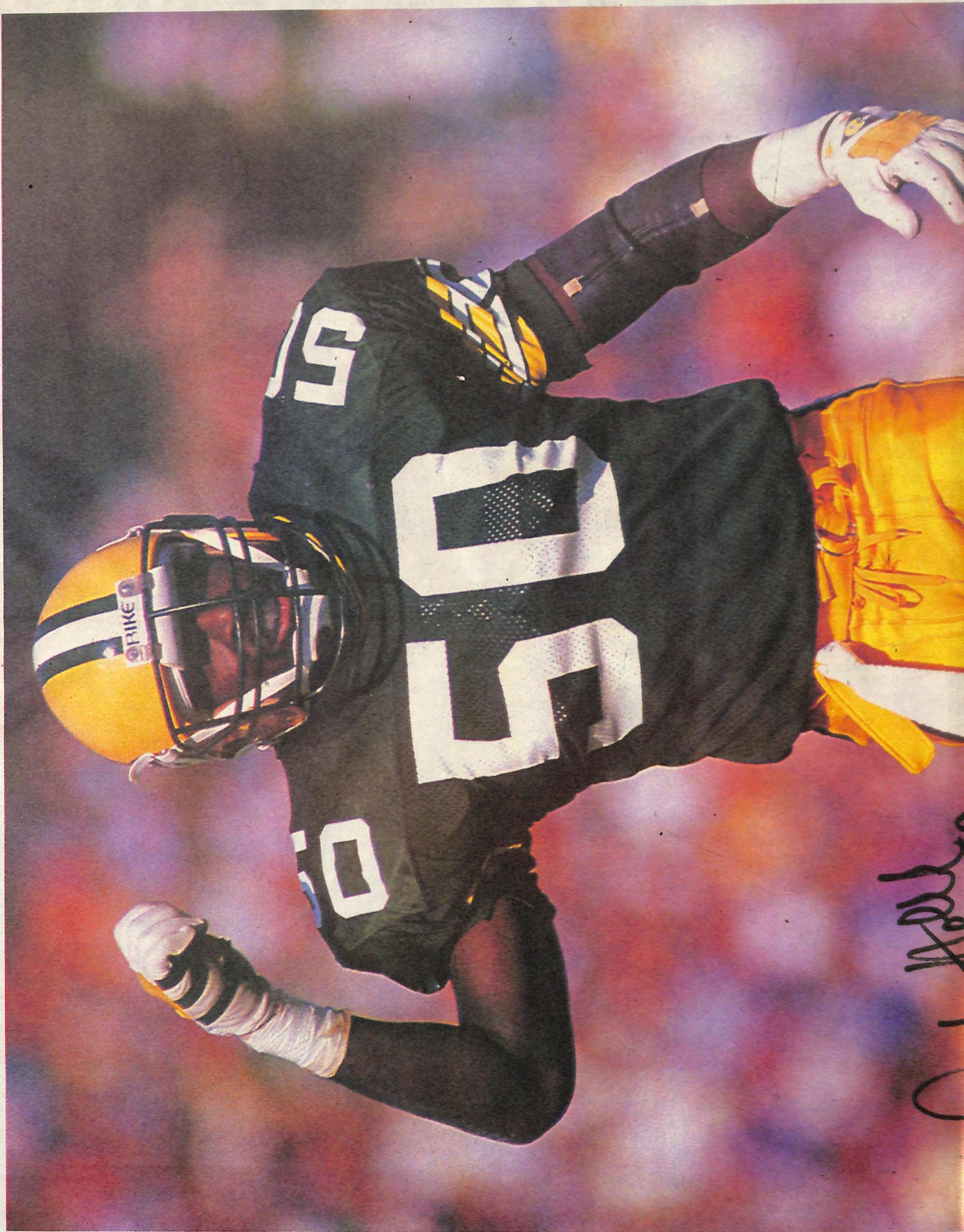


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Family Spotlight

Christopher Lee Jacke

Fifth-year placekicker

Born - March 12, 1966 in Richmond, Virginia.

College - Business major, University of Texas-El Paso.

Resides - Year-around in Green Bay

Family - Wife Tracey. First child due in December.

The last book I read was - One Up on Wall Street by Peter Lynch.

My favorite hobbies are - Golf, racquetball.

The things I like about football are - The financial security that it has given my family and I.

The things I like best to do with my family are - Relaxing at home and playing golf.

I would describe my wife as - Independent, family-oriented. Still striv-

ing to better herself through continuing education.

I would describe myself as - Being hard working and dedicated — not only in my profession but also in my personal life.

My favorite piece of advice to give people is - To never let anyone tell you that you cannot achieve your dreams or goals.

The most influential people in my life are - 1) My father, Edward Jacke, who always believed in me and encourages me in whatever I do; 2) Lindy Infante, because he gave me my start in the National football League by drafting me in the sixth round in 1989.

My greatest personal accomplishment outside football - 1) Getting a degree from college. 2) Becoming a father this coming winter.

Who is/was the world's greatest leader and why - Presidents Reagan and Bush because of their efforts to bring world peace and their dedication to the American people.

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Fifth-year kicker Chris Jacke needs only 10 more PATs without a miss to take over the Packers' all-time record for most consecutive PATs. With four Sunday against the Rams, Jacke now has 90 in a row. Paul Hornung owns the record at 99.

-- David J. Garot photo

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Eagles

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Exp.	College	How Acquired
5	Jeff Feagles	P	6-1	205	27	6	Miami	W-NE-90
6	Bubby Brister	QB	6-3	207	31	8	NE Louisiana	FA-93
8	Preston Jones	QB	6-3	223	23	R	Georgia	FA-93
9	Roger Ruzek	K	6-1	200	32	7	Weber State	FA-89
12	Randall Cunningham	QB	6-4	205	30	9	Nevada-Las Vegas	D2-85
20	Andre Waters	SS	5-11	200	31	10	Cheyney	FA-84
21	Eric Allen	CB	5-10	180	27	6	Arizona State	D2-88
22	Vai Sikahema	WR	5-9	196	31	8	Brigham Young	P1nB-92
23	Heath Sherman	RB	6-0	205	26	5	Texas A&I	D6-89
24	Corey Barlow	CB	5-9	182	22	1	Auburn	D5-91
26	Ben Smith	CB	5-11	185	26	4	Georgia	D1-90
29	Mark McMillian	CB	5-7	162	23	2	Alabama	D10-92
30	Otis Smith	CB	5-11	184	27	4	Missouri	FA-90
32	James Joseph	RB	6-2	222	25	3	Auburn	D7-91
33	William Frizzell	S	6-3	206	30	10	N. Carolina Central	FA-92
34	Herschel Walker	RB	6-1	225	31	8	Georgia	FA-92
38	Rich Miano	S	6-1	200	30	9	Hawaii	FA-91
42	Mike Reid	S	6-1	218	22	R	North Carolina State	D3b-93
43	Erik McMillan	FS	6-2	200	28	6	Missouri	UFA-93
45	Vaughn Hebron	RB	5-8	196	22	R	Virginia Tech	FA-93
46	Markus Thomas	RB	5-10	192	23	R	Eastern Kentucky	FA-93
48	Wes Hopkins	S	6-1	215	32	11	SMU	FA-93
51	William Thomas	LB	6-2	218	25	3	Texas A&M	D4-91
53	Ivan Caesar	LB	6-2	239	26	2	Boston College	FA-93
54	Britt Hager	LB	6-1	225	27	5	Texas	D3b-89
55	Ken Rose	LB	6-1	215	31	7	UNLV	FA-93
56	Byron Evans	LB	6-2	235	29	7	Arizona	D4-87
58	Derrick Oden	LB	5-11	230	22	R	Alabama	D6-93
59	Seth Joyner	LB	6-2	235	28	8	Texas-El Paso	D8-86
61	Eric Floyd	T/G	6-5	310	27	4	Auburn	P1nB-92
62	Brian Baldinger	G/T	6-4	278	33	12	Duke	FA-92
66	John Hudson	G/C	6-2	275	25	4	Auburn	D11-90
71	Mike Chalenski	DL	6-4	260	23	R	UCLA	FA-93
72	David Alexander	C	6-3	275	29	7	Tulsa	D5-87
73	Lester Holmes	G	6-3	301	23	R	Jackson State	D1a-93
74	Gerald Nichols	DT	6-2	260	29	6	Florida State	FA-93
75	Rob Selby	G	6-3	286	25	3	Auburn	D3-91
76	Broderick Thompson	T/G	6-5	295	33	8	Kansas	T-SD-93
77	Keith Millard	DT	6-5	263	31	8	Washington St.	UFA-93
78	Antone Davis	T	6-4	325	26	3	Tennessee	D1-91
79	Mike Schad	G	6-5	290	29	8	Queens (Canada)	P1nB-89
82	Victor Bailey	WR	6-2	196	23	R	Missouri	D2-93
84	Mark Bavaro	TE	6-4	245	30	8	Notre Dame	UFA-93
85	Jeff Synder	WR	5-6	170	23	2	Hawaii	D6-92
86	Fred Barnett	WR	6-0	199	27	4	Arkansas State	D3-90
87	Maurice Johnson	TE	6-2	243	26	3	Temple	FA-91
89	Calvin Williams	WR	5-11	190	26	4	Purdue	D5-90
91	Andy Harmon	DT	6-4	265	24	3	Kent State	D6-91
94	Leonard Renfro	DT	6-2	291	23	R	Colorado	D1b-93
95	Mike Flores	DE	6-3	256	26	3	Louisville	D11-91
96	Clyde Simmons	DE	6-6	280	29	8	Western Carolina	D9-86
97	Tim Harris	DE	6-6	258	28	8	Memphis State	UFA-93
98	Tommy Jeter	DT	6-5	282	23	2	Texas	D3-92

Facing an all-too-familiar foe

Reggie White will find plenty of familiar faces in the Packers' Lambeau-Field opener Sunday.

"I don't know. It's going to be interesting," he ventured. "I'm going to be confident. I'm used to looking across the line at those guys in practice. Now I'll be looking across the line at those guys as my opponent. It's going to be different."

Ruettgers gets 4-year deal

Ken Ruettgers has started 92 of the last 106 Packer games at left tackle.

And as last week drew to a close, it looked increasingly like he'd start his 17th in a row against the Rams Sunday. Despite holding out 45 days and not practicing until Tuesday, Ruettgers was eyed for the starting post because Tunch Ilkin, who started at left tackle during the holdout, continued to be unable to practice because of a hamstring pull.

"I have no qualms about playing Kenny," offensive Coach Tom Lovat said Wednesday.

In fact, Lovat suggested that even if Ilkin were 100 percent, Ruettgers would be his choice.

Lovat also predicted Ruettgers would have an even better year than he did in 1992, which many observers have acknowledged as his best NFL season since the Packers made him their first-round pick in 1985.

Ruettgers on Monday signed a four-

year \$8 million contract which makes him the highest-paid offensive player in the team's 75-year history.

The deal reportedly contained a \$250,000 signing bonus, \$600,000 reporting bonus and a \$1.9 million base salary for 1993 — all weight the deal toward this year, helping the team get under 1994's salary cap. The ninth-year veteran reportedly has base salaries of \$1.75 million in 1994, \$1.7 in '95 and \$1.8 in '96.

After his first practice, Ruettgers was asked whether he could be ready for the regular-season opener. "As ready as I can be," he replied. "You know what they say at final exams: If you're not ready now, you never will be."

Ruettgers added, "I was anxious to get in and get back into the football aspect of it. The business part of this game leaves a bitter taste in your mouth but the good thing about it is once you get done, you can put it behind you and get on with what you love to do."

Packers

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Exp.	College	How Acquired
4	Brett Favre	QB	6-2	218	23	3	Southern Mississippi	T-92 (All)
8	Mark Brunell	QB	6-1	208	22	R	Washington	D5a-93
9	Bryan Wagner	P	6-2	200	31	7	Cal State-Northridge	FA-92
11	Ty Detmer	QB	6-0	190	25	1	Brigham Young	D9a-92
13	Chris Jacke	K	6-0	200	27	5	Texas-El Paso	D6-89
17	Tim Watson	DB	6-2	216	22	R	Howard	FA-93 (D6c-93)
24	Tim Hauck	S	5-11	185	26	4	Montana	PB-91 (NE)
27	Terrell Buckley	CB	5-9	174	21	2	Florida State	D1-92
29	Marcus Wilson	RB	6-1	210	25	2	Virginia	FA-92
30	Corey Harris	DB	5-11	195	23	2	Vanderbilt	W-92 (Hou)
31	George Teague	DB	6-1	187	22	R	Alabama	D1b-93
32	John Stephens	RB	6-1	215	27	6	Northwestern (La.) St.	T-93 (NE)
33	Doug Evans	DB	6-1	188	22	R	Louisiana Tech	D6a-93
34	Edgar Bennett	RB	6-0	216	24	2	Florida State	D4-92
36	LeRoy Butler	S	6-0	205	24	4	Florida State	D2-90
38	Shawn Collins	WR	6-2	207	26	5	Northern Arizona	FA-93
39	Darrell Thompson	RB	6-1	217	25	4	Minnesota	D1b-90
44	Dexter McNabb	FB	6-2	245	23	2	Florida	D5a-92
45	Mike Prior	S	6-0	215	29	8	Illinois State	UFA-93 (Ind)
47	Roland Mitchell	CB	5-11	195	29	7	Texas Tech	PB-91 (Alt)
50	Johnny Holland	LB	6-3	235	28	7	Texas A&M	D2-87
52	Frank Winters	C/G	6-3	285	29	7	Western Illinois	FA-92 (KC)
53	George Koonce	LB	6-1	238	24	2	East Carolina	FA-92
54	Keo Coleman	ILB	6-1	255	23	2	Mississippi State	FA-93
55	Brett Collins	LB	6-1	234	24	2	Washington	FA-92 (D12-92)
56	James Willis	LB	6-2	235	20	R	Auburn	D5b-93
57	Rich Moran	G	6-3	280	31	9	San Diego State	D3-85
59	Wayne Simmons	LB	6-3	240	23	R	Clemson	D1a-93
62	Matt Brock	DE	6-6	280	27	5	Oregon	D3a-89
63	James Campen	C	6-3	280	28	7	Tulane	PB-89 (NO)
64	John Jurkovic	NT	6-2	285	25	3	Eastern Illinois	FA-9165
68	Joe Sims	T/G	6-3	310	24	3		

When The PACKERS Have The Ball

RCB 21 Allen 30 Smith	FS 38 Miano 30 Smith	SS 33 Frizzell 42 Reid 20 Waters	LCB 29 McMillian 26 Smith 24 Barlow
RLB 51 Thomas 54 Hager	MLB 56 Evans 58 Oden	LLB 59 Joyner 55 Rose 53 Caesar	
RE 96 Simmons 71 Chalenski	RT 91 Harmon 94 Renfro	LT 77 Millard 98 Jeter 74 Nichols	LE 97 Harris 95 Flores
WR 83 Clayton 87 Brooks	LT 79 Ikin 75 Ruettgers	LG 52 Winters 74 Widell 57 Moran	C 63 Campen 52 Winters
QB 4 Favre 11 Detmer 8 Brunell	RG 76 Galbreath 52 Winters 74 Widell	RT 73 Robbins 72 Dotson 68 Sims	TE 80 Harris 86 West 89 Chmura
RB 32 Stephens 39 Thompson 29 Wilson		WR 84 Sharpe 81 Collins 82 Beach	
FB 34 Bennett 44 McNabb			

When The EAGLES Have The Ball

RCB 47 Mitchell 30 Harris	FS 45 Prior 24 Hauck 31 Teague	SS 36 Butler 24 Hauck	LCB 27 Buckley 31 Teague 33 Evans
ROLB 95 Paup 55 Collins	RILB 50 Holland 56 Willis 55 Collins	LILB 91 Noble 54 Coleman 55 Collins	LOLB 53 Koonce 59 Simmons 55 Collins
RE 96 Patterson 62 Brock 98 Grant	NT 77 Maas 64 Jurkovic 71 Brown	LE 82 White 99 Davey	
WR 86 Barnett 82 Bailey 22 Sikahema	LT 76 Thompson 62 Baldinger	LG 79 Schad 75 Selby	C 72 Alexander 62 Baldinger 66 Hudson
QB 12 Cunningham 6 Brister 8 Jones	RG 61 Floyd 73 Holmes	RT 78 Davis 62 Baldinger	TE 84 Bavaro 87 Johnson
RB 23 Sherman 32 Joseph 42 Thomas	FB 34 Walker 45 Hebron	WR 89 Williams 85 Sydner	

Will free-agent exodus ground these Eagles?

While famed comedian W.C. Fields personally would rather be in Philadelphia, several former Eagles beg to differ.

In fact, they might be quick to use another line of the late Fields by saying to Philadelphia owner Norman Braman, "Get away kid — ya bother me."

Led by Reggie White, a large group of Eagles has exited the club this year; escaping via free agency.

Braman would like disgruntled fans to believe the departure of the likes of White, Jim McMahon, Keith Byars, Ron Heller, Keith Jackson, Mike Golic, Mike Pitts, Izel Jenkins and John Booty is for the betterment of the team, but few are buying his promise the team will be younger and better.

The media isn't buying either, preferring to accuse Braman of devising a smoke screen intended to cover a poor 1993 season.

Indeed, Braman's promise of fielding a youthful team appears to be an illusion considering that after his pledge he inked free-agent veterans like Broderick Thompson, Erik McMillan, Mark Bavaro, and former Packers Tim Harris and Keith Millard.

Then in the draft, the Eagles selected a pair of projects in Jackson St. rookie tackle Lester Holmes and Colorado defensive tackle Leonard Renfro. Neither are expected to carry a great immediate impact.

While the city of brotherly love is venting a lot of hostility toward Braman, it still must be noted that the jury must remain out until third-year Head Coach Rich Kotite gets an opportunity to field a team.

But for now it's safe to say, the 1993 Eagles flying into Lambeau Field Sunday appears to be highly suspect.

Dating back to 1934, the Packers hold a 19-6 (.760) regular-season advantage over the Eagles, but the Birds have taken five of the last eight. Green Bay upset

JIM BURGESS

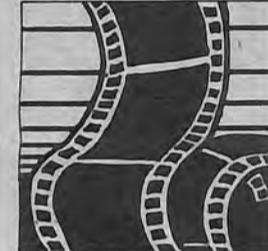


Philly, 27-24, Nov. 15 at Milwaukee County Stadium on Chris Jacke's last-second 41-yard field goal.

Cunningham can still be dangerous

Once thought of as being one of the NFL's elite quarterbacks, Randall Cunningham has been inconsistent since busting his knee up in the 1991 season opener here.

Nevertheless, Cunningham, who rushed for 968 yards in the 1990 season, is still dangerous enough to be a game-breaker on occasion. The Packers can ill-



NEXT WEEK'S OPPONENT

afford to let him escape the pocket.

Kotite, replaced by Zeke Bratkowski as offensive coordinator this campaign, insisted on obtaining Bubby Brister from Pittsburgh, via free agency rather than be forced to go with Florida State two-year man Casey Weldon should Cunningham go down.

The early going this season will be interesting — will Bratkowski retain Herschel Walker as his feature back or go more with the promising Heath Sherman? Walker had a solid 1992 comeback year, but Sherman got more carries as the season progressed.

Last year Cunningham really missed Jackson, who defected to Miami. This year he will miss equally Keith Byars, who brought the triple-threat dimension of being a tight end, H-back and running back. Byars also went to Miami. Replacement free agent Bavaro will be hard-pressed to fill his shoes.

The Eagles escaped disaster when star wide receiver Fred Barnett recently ended his holdout, but must find someone to go opposite him — likely Calvin Williams or second-round pick Victor Bailey.

The offensive line ranked last in NFL sack frequency last year, with the only change being free-agent Broderick Thompson replacing Heller at left tackle.

Antone Davis opens opposite Thompson with Mike Schad and Eric Floyd at guards; Dave Alexander at center.

Should pass rushers tote a six-gun or a Bible?

Philly attempted to compensate for the

loss of White by luring Harris, his sack-'em-up six-shooter and defensive tackle Michael Carter from the 49ers.

However, even if Harris recovers from an aggravated right elbow injury, he still faces a possible suspension for substance (alcohol) abuse. Carter recently stunned the club by retiring.

Two-time Pro Bowl right end Clyde Simmons anchors a line currently finding Mike Flores flanking him at left end with Andy Harmon and Millard inside at tackles. Rushing the passer remains a strength but stopping the run appears to be a problem.

Linebacking remains strong with All-Pro left 'backer Seth Joyner flanking veteran Byron Evans and run-stuffing middle man Britt Hager.

Perennial All-Pro Eric Allen is firmly entrenched at left corner with Jet free agent McMillan getting the nod at right corner. William Frizzell and Rich Miano will open at strong and free safety, respectively.

Ruzek, Feagles usually among the best

Placekicker Roger Ruzek is expected to rebound from an off-year and return to the form which places him in the 100-point category most seasons.

Punter Jeff Feagles was last year's NFL leader in pinning the opponent inside the 20 yardline and carried a career-best 42.2 average per boot.

Youngster Jeff Sydner was attempting to unseat either or both former Packer Vai Sikahema or Walker as a punt or kickoff return specialist as the season opened.

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Bears re-sign safety M. Paul

by John Delcos



Chicago Bears

The Bears resigned S Markus Paul, who was traded to Dallas nearly three weeks ago, then subsequently released. Because he is a vested veteran, Paul didn't have to clear waivers.

The Bears sent Paul, TE Kelly Blackwell and LB John Roper to Dallas for LBs Vinson Smith and Barry Minter, both of whom made the final cut.

Coach Dave Wannstedt said Paul wasn't traded initially because of a lack of ability.

"We never had a problem with Markus from the standpoint of what he was doing for us," Wannstedt said. "Believe me, I'm happy to have Markus Paul back."

Paul will be used on special teams, as the third nickel back, and the third safety in the rotation.

The following were waived, then resigned: LB Jim Morrissey, TE Dante Whitaker, OT Keith Van Horne. ... The following were claimed on waivers: RB Robert Green and C Gene McGuire. ... Signed to the developmental squad were: OL Todd Burger, FB John Ivlow, DT Frank Kmet, QB Shane Matthews and LB Jim Schwantz. ... WR Anthony Morgan was recalled after clearing waivers.



Detroit Lions

One of the rites of summer is the long-shot making an NFL roster.

This year, that player is TE Marty Thompson, a free-agent rookie from Fresno State who just would not drop a pass.

He wasn't the bonecrusher coach Wayne Fontes eyed for the position, but he held his blocks long enough to get the job down, and he caught everything in sight.

The Lions cut Thompson, then returned him to the 53-man roster.

Fontes said the Lions are still looking for a bruiser behind Rodney Holman, but for now will play Thompson.

"I didn't bring him back not to play him," said Fontes. "He's very intelligent. He's the type of tight end who knows exactly what he's doing. That's what I like about Marty, plus he had a very good camp. I'm the type of guy, who if a guy plays well in training camp, I'll try to find a roster spot for him."

For Thompson, the feeling was more of relief than happiness.

"I had a lot of sleepless nights," said Thompson. "Now that it's over with I'll be able to sleep. I just want to make them proud. I'm going to do my job the best I can, so they know they didn't make a mistake."



Minnesota Vikings

Dennis Green got his man. The Vikings' coach desperately wanted a power back to complement Roger Craig, and that void was filled with the acquisition of Barry Word from the Kansas City Chiefs for a fifth-round 1994 draft pick.

"He fits our needs," said Green. "He's a big, strong, physical player. We already have a guy with outside speed in Robert Smith, and we have Roger, a great warrior who has been there for a long time. The one thing we didn't have that we needed was a big guy, a guy that can really go in and run the ball and wear a defense down, early in the game and late in the game."

Word, 6-foot-2 and 245 pounds, has averaged 4.3 yards a carry during his career.

Word soured on the Chiefs after they tendered him a one-year deal at \$700,000 -- the minimum they could offer him.

"This is the team I wanted to go to once things didn't work out with Kansas City," said Word.

The Vikings signed DT John Randle and MLB Jack DeL Rio to two-year, \$2.45 million contract extensions. They are also close to signing WR Cris Carter to a two-year extension worth \$3.4 million.



CENTRAL ISSUES



Tampa Bay Buccaneers

As of late last week, holdout OT Paul Gruber has made a trade-or-sit decision. Supposedly, the Jets, Green Bay and Houston are interested. ... RB Gary Anderson is finally at peace with himself.

After the Bucs asked him to take a pay cut -- from \$900,000 to \$600,000 -- Anderson worried he wouldn't make the final cut. All is well, now.

"We worked out something that both sides thought was fair," Anderson said. "But a lot can happen in a whole season. They can let you go at any time." ... On cut day, LB Elijah Alexander thought he would be one of those gone-today, back-tomorrow cuts. "They told me to sit tight and I'd be back if I cleared waivers. Tampa is where I wanted to be all along." Guess again. Alexander is now a Denver Bronco. ... WR Robert Claiborne was waived and brought back, but with a different number. He wore No. 15 during the preseason but will wear No. 81 during the season because NFL rules dictate receivers wear numbers in the 80s. ... The Bucs gave Florida State QB Casey Weldon a tryout before the opener for the third-string role behind Craig Erickson and Steve DeBerg. ... The Bucs waived, then reclaimed: CB Chris

Buckley, OG Pat Tomberlin, DE Rhett Hall and S Barney Bussey. ... OG Sean Love, released by Buffalo, was signed. ... WR Tyree Davis, RB Butch Hadnot and DL Shawn Price were assigned to the developmental squad.



Green Bay Packers

The Packers are treating Pro Bowl WR Sterling Sharpe with kid gloves because of a strained Achilles tendon. He played in only three of five preseason games, and has been held out of several practices.

"It's not really a serious injury. It's more of a precautionary measure," said trainer Pepper Burris.

Last year, Sharpe caught a record 108 passes.

Green Bay cut veteran Ken O'Brien and kept Ty Detmer.

"Somebody had to go," said Detmer. "It was sad to see one of us go, but at the same time I am happy to be the back-up and take a step up. I feel comfortable with what I need to do in order to be a back-up and be ready each week."

O'Brien didn't play in the final two preseason games and anticipated the move.

"I haven't gotten any reps for awhile so I kind of expected it," said O'Brien.

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Wolf refreshing

To the Editor:

It was refreshing to hear some of Ron Wolf's comments during the Kansas City exhibition game. They weren't exciting to hear, but when he speaks with the truth and from his heart it can give you a good feeling that he is more in tune with what is happening with this club than most men in his position.

He had made reference to the sense of urgency as the regular season approaches. Actually it is the lack of urgency he meant. We all must agree with him. Despite the fact the offense in the last two outings clearly has looked better, the mistakes are still being made and must be dealt with. Trying to have the right perspective on pre-season play is difficult. You cannot just look at it and say after a loss that famous quote, "It's only pre-season." Even after a win one must not be happy because that victory could be hiding many weaknesses that don't show up until October.

Why is there no sense of urgency? After 1989 it has been proven many guys sat back and thought it would happen again automatically and without the hard work to back it up. As excited as I am for our chances this year I am also questioning how well the commitment will be to keep 1990 from happening again. If it does, the reputation that the Packers and their fans are searching for will be dealt a setback very severe. The Monday Night Football appearances are slowly coming back. The national media has given us a lot of praise and it is crucial to give them now what we are all expecting.

To be the first team since '67 to do it should be the incentive without any of the things I mentioned already. A commitment I would like to see is by the brain trust towards the young QB's. Ty and Mark can handle the load as backups. All that talk of veteran backups is overrated and blown out of reality. Maybe it can work but just not with Ken O'Brien. Hopefully by the time this letter is being read by all of you, Mr. O'Brien's only affiliation with the Packers will be a subscriber of the *Packer Report* too.

I've seen Detmer and Brunell move the ball (understanding against the opponents backups) when Ken O'Brien could not. Neither Detmer or Brunell deserve to be fourth on any depth chart after their efforts these past few weeks!

I hope not too many people will disagree with Hallstrom's departure. With all due respect for his services over the years, I added his 11 years with Moran's 8 and Ruettgers' 8. In the 27 combined seasons played among them not one trip to Hawaii.



Mission undetermined, destination unknown -- we don't know if Bill Lamdries was moving into or out of Langley Air Force Base in Virginia when this photo was taken. All that's obvious is he's lived in Nevada, Virginia and Wisconsin -- and cheered for the Packers the whole darned time.

Two of the three men being first rounders and one a third. Many folks say that when on a team with generally bad records it is very difficult especially on the offensive line to make the Pro Bowl. I agree to a point. Think about this for a minute; 27 combined seasons and not one. I have seen others make the Pro Bowl on bad teams even when the rest of the offensive line has been weak. Lomas Brown from Detroit is an example. He's done it. I question their hunger compared to other men that have had to face tougher odds.

Finally, I would like to say how nice it was to also hear Mr. Wolf's comments on his goal to restore the traditional image the franchise has. If you look at how things are done in Montreal with hockey and in Boston with basketball, you will see that they never ever let the past die like some people say you should forget about it. The faces of Rocket Richard and Jean Beliveau along with many others are on the walls of the Montreal dressing room. The players of today from many traditional organizations are addressed that they represent those people of the past and more importantly the people of the future. They have responded with the right perspective on what is asked of them to uphold the foundation given to them. The Celtics have won many titles since their big dominant years of the 60s as well as the Canadiens. Any player or fan that thinks that things are too different in Green Bay to do this does not belong a player or fan of Green Bay.

What made Rick Mirer a record breaker at Notre Dame was having the images of men who wore his number 3 in the past all around him and he used it as inspiration to try and match it so he could be one of those guys to leave his mark to. Everybody involved in this franchise from the top and

to the fans must understand how much of an advantage success in the past (whenever it was) can breed new success. The drive to be better than someone whom has already proven their greatness is the toughest drive to stop.

Duane E. Menor
Morrison, CO/
Marinette, WI

Believable optimism

Dear Ray and Al,

No matter how the upcoming season may play out, the one thing that can't be disputed by any Packer fan is that our organization has done everything within their power to show they are serious about wanting to win.

Heck, even some reader from San Antonio, said we'd have a losing season last year but now says we'll win the division this year. What brilliance. I'm just hoping this reader gets this year's "prediction" right.

Over the past years (too many to remember), most fans have gone into the seasons with low expectations. I had gone into those too many seasons quite the opposite. I was always optimistic we would do well — maybe even make the playoffs! Hey!! Maybe even go the Super Bowl again! Hey! So I was stupid...no, deluded...no, "brain dead"...no, a guy who believed in miracles and knew that during a complete NFL season, some strange and crazy things can happen. After all, if I were going to count my team out from day one, why the heck would I even follow their games?

So now I'm faced with a dilemma. The "experts" (no, not those in San Antonio) are saying this division is ours. Some are

even saying we'll give the Cowboys a run for the NFC title. What's this Packer fan to think? Logic would dictate I become pessimistic. Yeah...why, I think the Packers will fight Tampa Bay for last place this year! Hey!! We'll have the worst record in football so we can get the No. 1 draft pick in 1994!!

Wait a minute. Who am I kidding? I, along with the multitude of Packer faithful worldwide, have waited for the time when we could rejoice in the fact that our team is the majority pick of the "experts" to make the playoffs! I'm once again optimistic as all get out!

What? The regular season and playoffs? Forgot about that. Well, you know, a lot of strange and crazy things can happen during that time. But this time, the organization has turned my optimism into believability.

Let's get this season underway! Whatever happens, happens. All I know is that I'll be watching or listening to the Pack's every game, and hoping for the best.

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SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

Evans

Continued from page 6

arity in defensive approaches.

"It's the same basic type of defense here that I came from — fight hard to get to the ball," he said. "I see guys out there working hard to do that. Going back to my college years, that's what we were taught to do, 'Go to the ball, go to the ball.' So I fit right in here."

Jauron has taught him a lot in a short time

Jauron's painstaking tutelage is a factor in his development, Evans will tell you.

"He's taught me things, technique-wise, that make me a better player," Doug said. "He's a great coach — he teaches you things that may take some time, but he stays with you until you get it down."

Widening his perspective, Evans waxes enthusiastic about the quality of the defensive unit he has joined.

"They want to make plays," he said, admiringly. "Nobody rests. Everybody wants to make the tackle — everybody wants to make the play...Everyone has the feeling that this is going to be a great defense. Everybody knows what it takes to be a great defense — you can tell that just by being out on the field with the guys."

"And the offense is working hard — they're doing the things that it takes to be a team on top...If we can pull it together as one unit, we're going to be a good team."

Evans' speed afoot — along with his physique — has earned him one of the more colorful nicknames on the current roster, "Greyhound."

His features crinkling into a smile at mention of the moniker, Doug volunteered, "That was my college nickname. I think I got it as a sophomore. They said I reminded them of a greyhound dog and they started calling me that. They said, 'He kind of runs like a greyhound — long legs and fast.'

"At first, I didn't like it. It didn't stick with me. But, after a while, I kind of liked it. It fitted me pretty good...my construction and everything."

A very defensive family

Doug is not the first member of his family to make the grade in professional football. His older brother, Bobby, is a safety with the Winnipeg Blue Bombers of the Canadian Football League and, Evans reports, doing rather well for himself.

"The Blue Bombers are leading their division — I think they're 6-and-3," Doug informed. "I saw Bobby play on TV last week. He had a pretty good game — he had two interceptions."

"This is his fourth year in the CFL," Doug continued, adding, "He has the talent to be here (in the NFL with the Pack). To be honest, he's a better player than I am."

"He went to a real small school — Southern Arkansas University — and he didn't have the opportunity to have a lot of scouts come in to look at him...He was a blue chipper coming out of high school."

"I have four brothers and all five of us made all-state (in Louisiana) in high school. I and two others were linebackers. The other ones were a defensive tackle and a defensive guard."

And now, along with a CFL safety, there is an NFL cornerback in the family...

flushed to his right and, on a dead run, launched the ball 50 yards through the air in the direction of Sharpe, who was at the 5 running toward the end zone with Lyght and Pat Terrell. Both defenders turned and tipped the ball at approximately the goal line. Sharpe, who had turned now as well, maintained visual contact with the deflection and leaped at the right time to haul it in.

Not a bad catch for his first of the year.

Victory

Continued from page 3

on the Green Bay 30.

The ball bounced away from McNeal and was intercepted by LeRoy Butler, who returned it 31 yards to the Rams' 39.

Two possessions later, Terrell Buckley returned a punt 39 yards to the Los Angeles 21, setting up Chris Jacke's 33-yard field goal -- the day's final score.

Everett drove the Rams in the closing minutes, but his fourth-down pass from the Green Bay 8 was intercepted by Roland Mitchell in the end zone.

Many plays make a great game

Tim Hauck made a spectacular save of a Bryan Wagner punt at the Rams' 1 with no score in the first quarter. Brian Noble broke through the Rams' line on the first play and slowed halfback Cleveland Gary enough for Paup and George Koonce to swarm in for the safety and a 2-0 lead with 11:48 to go in the first quarter.

McNabb failed to field the ensuing free kick from former Packer Don Bracken, positioning the Rams to grab a 3-2 lead on Zendejas' 31-yard field goal, giving Los Angeles the one-point advantage only 6:31 into the game.

On Green Bay's next drive, Favre was



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with 3:47 to go in the half.

But Green Bay had two consecutive drives to end the first half and begin the second half, converting both for touchdowns and putting the game out of reach.

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Continued from page 5

probably doesn't have the stats right now but just him being on the field, opens up a lot and puts pressure on the quarterback. He didn't have any sacks today but he was putting pressure on them and forcing them to throw the ball quick. He did a good job."

Besides, said Holland, sacks can be over-rated. "Sometimes they are," he said. "The Rams are a three-step drop team. It's hard to get sacks on a three-step drop. He didn't give us a chance a lot. Sometimes they are overrated."

"We'll have a lot of sacks this year. We have some guys who can really come off the ball and put pressure on the quarterback."

Paup's versatility a big plus

One of the guys we get so used to seeing up front in a three-point stance teeing off on opposing quarterbacks is outside linebacker Bryce Paup.

And while Paup may do that a majority of the time in the "elephant" position Tony Bennett is holding out of, rushing the passer is not all he does. Paup showed his versatility by dropping in pass coverage on a key fourth-down play as the third quarter was drawing to a close.

The Rams had fourth-and-five just 10 yards from the Packer end zone. Everitt threw for tight end Travis McNeal on the left side, but Paup dropped in coverage and arrived at McNeal simultaneously with the ball. Paup broke the pass up, thus ending the Rams' threat and getting the ball back for his offense.

"He's got to play like a defensive end, and a linebacker and sometimes he's in coverage — it asks quite a bit from him," Butler said. "Bryce did a good job. He does a good job rushing the passer. He's a good athlete. Whatever you ask him to do, he gets it done."

What a difference a year makes

A year makes a difference for not only Butler and the defense, but also for the offense, which is now in its second year of running Holmgren's reasonably complicated system.

Since everybody watches the quarterback, Favre is the logical first step to appraise the year's difference. "It's made a lot of difference," Holmgren said. "He still will do things that upset me a little. But he is so much farther ahead. He understands the game, our offense and what he can do and what his teammates can do so much more than he did last year."

Asked whether he feels completely comfortable with the offense, Favre replied. "I wouldn't say that. Five years from now I might say that. I made some mistakes today. The interception was an audible and the defense fooled me. I've got to be better than that...but I came back and executed after that."

"I feel a lot better now than this time last year. The Cincinnati game, when I came in for the first time, today was totally different. You can see the progress I am making and this offense is making. It's just a gradual learning process. I'm still not close to where I want to be."

So how hard, really, is Holmgren on Favre?

"As tough as he should be," the third-year signal-caller said. "I'm smart enough to know when I've made mis-

takes and what I need to do to get better. But you always need somebody to stay on your back a little bit and that's about what he does. He doesn't do anything more or anything less. He says, 'You know what you did?' And I say, 'Yeah' and he says, 'Let's correct it and come back out next week and do a better job.'

"That's basically what it is. He's as tough as he should be."

One of the ways everybody can see Favre has improved is his ability to get past Sterling Sharpe in the order of progression on pass plays. Sure, Sharpe caught a game-high seven passes Sunday — and now needs only 101 more catches to tie the single-season NFL record he set a year ago — for 120 yards. But look here: Tight end Jackie Harris was only two behind, with five catches and his 92 yards were more than twice as many as any Ram receiver."

White:

One game does not a season make

Mark Clayton was third on the team with four catches, including one touchdown. "Now teams can't say, 'Hey, Sterling's the guy,'" Favre pointed out. "You saw Jackie make some great catches. Mark did a great job and that's what we need. Today everybody got the ball and got a chance to do something with it....there will be games where they shut Sterling down. They didn't shut him down today but there were other guys open and I got the ball to them and they made the plays. That's what we need out of this offense."

But Holmgren's offense is still not where the head coach wants it to be. "I think our offensive line still has to come together," he said. "I think they did a good job today but I think their best games are still ahead of them — because they haven't been together very long. It was a first game. A good first game but as I look at the film I'm sure there will be things we could have done better."

Like the 50-yard touchdown pass to Sharpe. Don't get Holmgren wrong here

— he likes touchdowns as much as the next head coach, but when asked what he was thinking in the first quarter when Favre rolled toward him and threw — on the run — 50 yards in the air to Sharpe in the end zone, Holmgren replied, "I can't really tell you what my thought was."

"I did tell Sterling that he saved Brett from a serious tongue lashing because that was a launch."

"I still don't know how it was caught," Holmgren marveled.

"That's one of those things where a coach always says, 'If something's not going good, make something happen,'" Favre said. "I knew Sterling was going deep. I tried to throw it as hard as I could. It wobbled on me a little bit but Sterling made a great catch. That's what we expect out of him and that's the kind of plays we need to make all year long."

Speaking of all year long, today's final word comes from Rev. White, addressing that very subject: "The thing about it is we have to be consistent. One game don't make a whole season."

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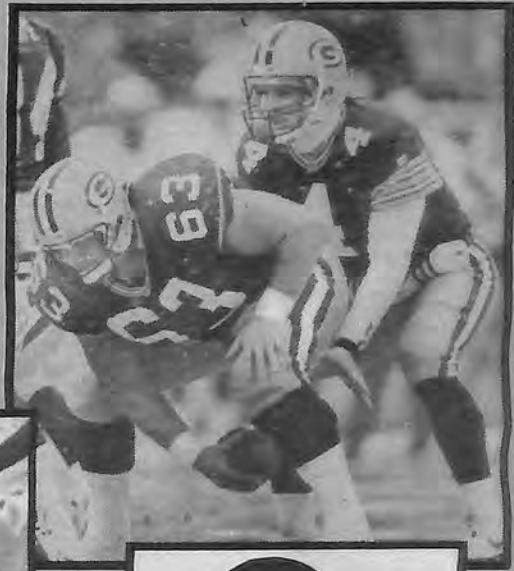
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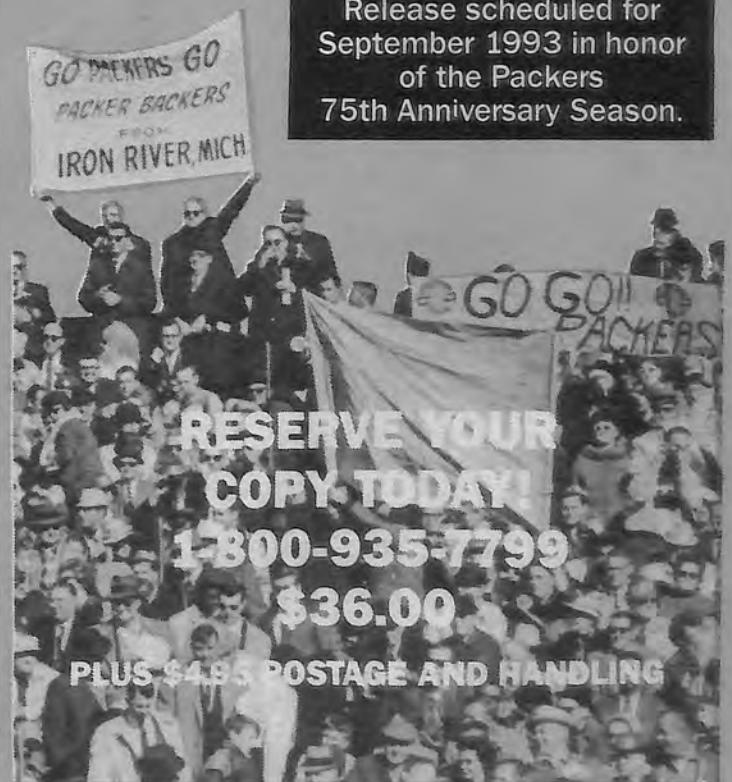
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